Support from ICAR

487. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought assistance from ICAR for supporting the growth of biotechnology in the State; and

(b) if so, the action, if any taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Guidelines for Financial help during Natural Calamities

488. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve new guidelines and norms for financial help in regard to natural calamities like drought and floods to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the 11th Finance Commission has given any recommendation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) the pattern of assistance to States in the wake of natural calamities is based on the recommendations of the Finance Commissions from time to time. In accordance with the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, financial assistance was provided under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Fund for Calamity Relief for the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Finance on the basis of the interim recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, has released